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TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge

In a recent communication from Dr. O. F. E. Winberg, who has been acting in charge of the work against the sweet-potato weevil in the State of Alabama, it is stated that the most thorough investigations and inspections so far during the present harvest season have failed to show the presence of the weevil in the Grand Bay district, in which a small number of farms showed infestation two years ago. The measures adopted have been the destruction of all infested sweet potatoes, through clean culture, hogging down the infested patches, and careful inspection of new plants known to be weevil free or to have been brought from weevil-free districts. The outlook accordingly is very encouraging, and it is hoped that additional efforts in the adjoining portions of Mississippi may accomplish the same benefits and that work for another season or two in Baker County, Fla., may be equally productive. This office awaits with interest the results of the final re-inspections.

F. M. Wadley, in charge of the truck-crop station at Muscatine, Iowa, has recently resigned in order to complete his course for an advanced degree at the Kansas Agricultural College. He is expected to return at the beginning of the next insect season and to continue the work which he has undertaken.

Neil F. Howard, formerly connected with this office, who recently returned from France, has accepted a position with the Goodyear Rubber Company at Akron, Ohio.

Observations in Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey on the Colorado potato beetle indicate that extensive tachinid parasitism explains the material decrease in numbers during the present season. In the individuals of the first generation more than 25 per cent appear to have been parasitized, while parasitism in the second generation is almost complete. Workers in a position to observe and transmit to this office parasitized individuals of the Colorado potato beetle will confer a favor by so doing.

C. H. Popencoe will leave early in October for an extended trip to the truck-crop stations in the Central and Pacific States.

BEE CULTURE

E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist in Charge

This office, in cooperation with the Extension Division and Department of Entomology of the University of Wisconsin, gave an extension short course for commercial beekeepers at Madison during the week of August 18. The meetings were in the nature of a Chautauqua. The total attendance was 160, the largest at any such school to date.

